

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 05318 181853Z

73

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

AF-10 EA-11 NEA-10 DRC-01 /195 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5740

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS ZEN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 1152: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SGEN, EEC

SUBJ: PEPIN SLATED FOR WCL PRESIDENCY AT

EVIAN CONGRESS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 18TH

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 05318 181853Z

CONGRESS OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR AT
EVIAN, FRANCE, SEPTEMBER 25-28, HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED.

ACCORDING TO WCL SOURCES IN BRUSSELS, MARCEP PEPIN OF CANADA WILL SUCCEED OUTGOING WCL PRESIDNT MAURICE BOULADOUX. THE DESIGNATED THEME OF THE CONGRESS IS "SOLIDARITY AND LIBERATION" WHICH IS THE TITLE OF A VOLUMINOUS REPORT BY EMILIO MASPERO TO BE DELIBERATED AT THE CONGRESS. AT A SEPARATE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 28 THE WCL'S EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION (EO/WCL) IS EXPECTED TO RATIFY ITS PLAN FOR PERMITTING FREE AFFILIATION OF ITS MEMBER UNIONS WITH EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC). END SUMMARY.

2. A MUCH RUMORED MOVE BY WCL LEADERS TO NOMINATE MARCEL PEPIN FOR THE WCL PRESIDENCY IS EXPECTED TO HAVE THE NEAR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF AN ESTIMATED 300 DELEGATES FROM APPROXIMATELY 90 COUNTRIES WHO WILL ATTEND THE 18TH WCL CONGRESS. PEPIN, WHO HEADS CANADA'S CONFEDERATION OF NATIONAL TRADE UNIONS AND IS WCL VICE PRESIDENT FOR NORTH AMERICA, WILL REPLACE RETIRING MAURICE BOULADOUX OF FRANCE. (PEPIN BECAME A CAUSE CELEBRE IN INTERNATIONAL LABOR CIRCLES FOLLOWING HIS MAY 1972 ARREST IN A CANADIAN LABOR DISPUTE. HE SERVED FOUR MONTHS OF A ONE-YEAR SENTENCE AND WAS THE CAUSE OF INTENSE WCL PRESSURES ON THE GOC WHICH WAS ACCUSED OF VIOLATING BASIC TRADE UNION FREEDOMS.) THE PEPIN-BOULADOUX SWITCH IS THE ONLY WCL CONFEDERAL BOARD CHANGE ANTICIPATED AT THE CONGRESS. PEPIN WOULD BE THE FIRST NON-EUROPEAN WCL PRESIDENT. WITH HIS ELECTION CANADIANS WILL HOLD THE PRESIDENCIES OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS (DONALD MCDONALD IS ICFTU PRESIDENT).

3. PRE-CONGRESS MEETINGS OF WCL WORKING GROUPS WERE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN GENEVA ON SEPTEMBER 12. THESE MEETINGS WILL LAST UNTIL SEPTEMBER 23 AND WILL CONCENTRATE PRIMARILY ON GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS, THE STATUS OF WORKING WOMEN AND THE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE EC AND THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETINGS IS TO PROVIDE CONGRESS DELEGATES WITH STUDIED ASSESSMENTS OF THESE PROBLEM AREAS WHICH, ALONG WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 EC BRU 05318 181853Z

DISCUSSION OF THE MASPERO DOCUMENT, WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE DETERMINATION OF FUTURE WCL POLICY DIRECTION AND STRATEGY.

4. THE QUIXOTIC MASPERO, WHO HEADS WCL'S LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION (CLAT), WILL HAVE STAGE CENTER AT THE CONGRESS. HIS RHETORICAL HISTORICALS AND CONSUMMATE PREOCCUPATION WITH "YANKEE IMPERIALISM" HAS GIVEN MANY OF HIS WCL EUROPEAN BRETHREN CAUSE FOR CONCERN, BUT HIS MILITANT AND INTELLECTUALLY MOTIVATED APPROACH TO

INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS APPEALS TO THEM AND OVERSHADOWS HIS FAILURES IN PRACTICAL TERMS IN PROMOTING TRADE UNION INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA. NEVERTHELESS, WCL PRE-CONGRESS PUBLICITY HEDGES A BIT BY INDICATING THAT MASPERO'S DOCUMENT "IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE REPORTER". WHILE DESCRIBED BY ONE WCL LEADER AS "MODERATE FOR MASPERO" THE PAPER IS EXPECTED TO BE CLASSICIST IN TONE WITH THE US AND MULTINATIONALS COMING UNDER HEAVY FIRE. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE WILL LIKELY INSPIRE MASPERO WHO, ACCORDING TO SEPTEMBER 13 BELGIAN PRESS REPORTS, HAD ALREADY DENOUNCED THE CHILEAN COUP AS THE "BEGINNING OF A LONG FASCIST NIGHT IN LATIN AMERICA".

5. OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE AT THE CONGRESS, IF LESS SENSATIONAL, WILL BE THE RATIFICATION OF THE WCL EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION'S AGREEMENT TO PERMIT ITS MEMBER UNIONS TO AFFILIATE WITH THE ETUC. ACCORDING TO EO/WCL GENERAL SECRETARY JEAN KULAKOWSKI THIS ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE WCL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 28. OTHER THAN AGREEMENT TO PERMIT THE EO/WCL TO RETAIN ITS IDENTITY, KULAKOWSKI DID NOT MENTION THE SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, HE TOLD THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE THAT THE DIFFERENCES RAISED AT THE JOINT ETUC-EO/WCL MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON JULY 12 (SEE EC BRUSSELS 3997) HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. WHILE THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT UNEXPECTED, IT IS GENERALLY VIEWED AS A MORALE BOOST TO THE ETUC FOLLOWING THE RECENT BRITISH TUC VOTE AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN EC ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CONTINENTAL LEADERS VIEW AS A VITAL ETUC FUNCTION. MERGER OF THE ICTU AND THE WCL IS STILL NOT ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 04 EC BRU 05318 181853Z

HORIZON BUT ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS ETUC-EO/WCL AGREEMENT CONSTITUTES A POSITIVE STEP IN THAT DIRECTION. GREENWALD

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